THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Shortage of rigs for drilling work

†2113. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to acute shortage of rigs, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) could not start drilling work in oil well of 14 blocks between years 2006 and 2009;

(b) whether it is also a fact that companies like ONGC and RIL have not been able to complete their work in the blocks allotted to them, under the new oil extraction policy;

(c) if so, the impact of this on oil and gas production; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide adequate numbers of rig drilling machines?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has not been able to commence exploratory drilling in 14 deep water blocks mainly due to shortage of deep water rigs.

(b) Yes, Sir. ONGC and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) could not complete their committed drilling programme in the deep water blocks allotted to them under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime.

(c) There is no direct impact on Oil and Gas production as drilling is delayed in exploration areas where oil and gas has not yet been discovered.

(d) Rigs are required to be mobilized by the Contractors from the local or International Markets. Government ensures expediting clearances, facilitating deployment of rigs once Contractors are able to mobilize the rigs.

Leakage incidents of oil depots

†2114. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the places where from the incidents of petroleum leakage have been reported to Government during the last month in addition to the leakage incidents in Jaipur, Rajasthan;

(b) whether no corrective measures have been taken despite complaints of leakage for the last three years in Jharkhand;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.